City Update

www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/cityupdate

June 27, 2003

The new look and feel of the City web pages

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The City of Saint Paul
Minnesota's Capital City

If you use web pages in your job—

You've probably already noticed the changes in the look and feel of our web pages. In case you don't know what we're talking about, it's the suite of over 5000 web pages you can reach from www.ci.stpaul.mn.us.

The new pages are more pleasing to view in your browser, and are lots easier to use than the previous incarnation.

The new pages are more pleasing because—

• Thanks to the use of Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) technology, you're seeing pages more nearly they way they were designed to be seen. CSS gives page designers more controls.

• We're using a better-integrated, more consistent color scheme for menus, layout, and type styles. More departments are using the same format, and extra pages like Ayd Mill Road, road construction, and others are using a very similar look.

• Many pages have new graphics, like the banner near the top of this page. This graphic emphasizes the color scheme, and gives the viewer an image of downtown Saint Paul.

The new pages are easier to use because—

• We've given you many more navigation tools, and put them where they're most accessible, at the top of the page, and at the bottom. The site index is at the bottom.

• We have a great new sidebar menu on nearly every page that has a consistent layout, but includes links specific to the page you're on.

• The way we've organized our pages is based on the way they're used, focusing on our three main audiences—Residents, Businesses, and Visitors.

• And finally, our pages are easier to use for people with visual or motion difficulties. Our pages are among the most ADA*-compliant of all US municipalities.

Our pages are popular

We're proud that over 185,000 pages of www.ci.stpaul.mn.us are viewed every week. Did you know the City has more than 5000 web pages?
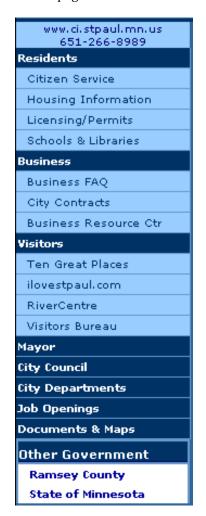
* The American with Disabilities Act which, among other things, dictates standards that help make web pages more usable to all.

Please print this for your co-workers. The City is continuing to save money by not producing printed copies of the City Update, but still needs to communicate to all employees. Please help by printing this newsletter (preferably back-to-back) for workers in your area who do not have computer access. Thank you.

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www.ci.stpaul.mn.us   *Places to go. Things to do.*   **ilovesaintpaul.com**

Our City Council agendas, minutes, and approved minutes alone since November, 1994, have numbered well over 1000 pages.

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www.ci.stpaul.mn.us
      651-266-8989
Residents
  Citizen Service
  Housing Information
  Licensing/Permits
  Schools & Libraries
Business
  Business FAQ
  City Contracts
  Business Resource Ctr
Visitors
  Ten Great Places
  ilovestpaul.com
  RiverCentre
  Visitors Bureau
Mayor
City Council
City Departments
Job Openings
Documents & Maps

Other Government
  Ramsey County
  State of Minnesota
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The new design came at the urging of the Mayor's office, as well as a City-wide design team started about two years ago. That team was headed by Rebecca Stenberg of Parks and Recreation, Sean Kershaw of PED (now working outside the City), and

Cindy Mullan of Technology and Management Services-Information Services (IS for short).

The concepts for the integrated design and menus came from the City-wide team, and the new pages were designed and are maintained daily by Pete Nelson of IS and Roger Grupp of Marketing and Promotions, with assistance by Dan Nguyen (IS) and a host of other contributors throughout the City.

The pages were redesigned in-house at no 'out-of-pocket' cost. Money had been designated two years ago for a complete redesign by consultants, and a lot of essential planning and discussion happened as a result. In the end, the consultancy plan was rejected as being too costly.

Residents, Business, and Visitors—and you

The new design highlights City services and programs, but points web users to them from three distinct viewpoints: as a resident of Saint Paul, as someone looking for business information, and as visitors to our city might look for things. See the home page sidebar menu at left to see what we mean.

Of course, City employees may feel most comfortable looking for information directly through departments.

New features

A few additions have been made that will be attractive to users from near and far. Those who don't know their way around the city will be happy to see our new Map Gallery. It was designed by Steve Lorbach of LIEP (now in IS). The map files are all

pdf documents, ranging in size from a 2.5MB zoning map to a precinct map at about 70K. The precinct maps show polling places. The gallery also has section maps delineating right-of-way and showing plats and lots.

Later this year you can look for interactive maps showing recreation centers and many other features.

Visitors and residents alike will enjoy visiting Ten Great Places. When Mayor Kelly got a sneak preview of the completed web design, he said it needed something to show people some of the best places to visit in the city. So several people put their heads together and came up with Ten Great Places to visit in Downtown Saint Paul. Of course there are more than ten great places to visit, so the featured links on this page will change often.

They like us

Dozens of positive comments—and a few negative ones—have come in about the redesign. Several said things like "I like this new look. It's colorful and very user friendly. I like the Latest News section. Altogether, the whole page looks nice and easy to find what you are looking for."

Virtually all the negatives came during a test period from a glitch that caused the sidebar menu to show up completely blank for some people. Pete Nelson fixed that bug right away.

Comments from citizens and City employees will help us continue to improve www.ci.stpaul.mn.us. Use the feedback form, or send your mail directly to Pete, Roger, and Dan at webmaster@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

City job openings as of June 13th, 2003

Application deadline	Job title	Bi-weekly or hourly salary rate	Exam date
07/14/03	Parking Enforcement Officer	$977.35 bi-weekly	See Job Ann
07/7/03	Water Utility Technician I	$1,309.21 bi-weekly	See Job Ann

Note: Call or visit the Office of Human Resources to receive the official job announcement for these positions. Location: 400 City Hall Annex. Phone: 651-266-6500 or visit the web site: www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/jobopenings. For jobs announced after June 24th, please call our 24-hour job line, 651-266-6502.

On January 16th, 2003, Mayor Randy Kelly announced a hiring freeze for the City of Saint Paul until further notice. This applies to all positions within the City, but excludes the Saint Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health and RiverCentre.

Certain positions my be determined exempt for the hiring freeze; please continue to check our web site and job line to see if there are any new postings in which you might be interested.